

## **PART 7. TRAFFIC CONTROLS FOR SCHOOL AREAS**

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### **CHAPTER 7A. GENERAL**

#### **Section 7A.02     School Routes and Established School Crossings**

*Add the following subsection at the beginning of the section:*

**Standard:**

Before speed limits are reduced for school zones, the local school district shall develop a school walking route plan and submit it to the appropriate Regional or City Traffic Engineer. This walking route plan should be prepared in accordance with Section 7A.02 of the MUTCD. This plan shall evaluate and propose safe walking routes separate from the highway directing students to a designated crossing point near the school. When there are alternative crossing points, the designated crossing point should be the one most suitable for pedestrian crossing. Once a walking route plan has been approved by the local school district and accepted by the highway department, the Regional or City Traffic Engineer shall select the appropriate traffic control devices in accordance with Sections 7A.100 and 7A.101.

#### **Section 7A.04     Scope**

*Add the following to the Support subsection:*

The urban and rural traffic control matrices presented in Table 7A-100 and Table 7A-101 apply only to roads abutting school property and nonabutting roads at designated school crossings.

#### **Section 7A.08     Placement Authority**

*Add the following Guidance subsection before the existing Support subsection:*

**Guidance:**

On state roads, any significant deviation from the traffic control treatments shown in Tables 7A-100 and 7A-101 requires documented justification and approval from the regional director. Deviation on non-state roads requires approval from the road authority with jurisdiction.

#### **Section 7A.100     Rural School Zone Traffic Control Summary**

*This is a new section. There is no corresponding section in the MUTCD.*

*Sections 7A.11 through section 7A.99 are reserved for future MUTCD use.*

Support:

Traffic control treatments for rural school zones are given in Table 7A-100.

For this application, “rural” is defined as a sparsely populated area where the majority of land is not subdivided.

Rural schools have different traffic control than urban schools because there are generally fewer students that walk to school. Students are usually bused or driven because these areas are more sparsely settled and homes are farther away. Placing 20 mph zones on rural high speed roads where few student pedestrians are seen by drivers would generate disrespect for school speed zones in general, thereby making all school zones less safe.

Guidance:

School districts should develop policies that consider crossing guards where students in grades K-8 (K-4 in particular) are required to cross major streets.

**Table 7A-100**  
**Rural School Zone Traffic Control**

<b>Road Adjacent to School Grounds</b>		<b>Road Not Adjacent to School Grounds</b>
Speed Limit ≤35 mph	Speed Limit ≥40 mph	School Zone traffic control devices should not be placed on roads that do not abut school grounds unless a crossing guard is present at the site. Any exceptions to this rule must be based on a site-specific engineering study.
Advance School Signs (S1-1)	Advance School Signs (S1-1) (beacon optional)	

**Section 7A.101    Urban School Zone Traffic Control Summary**

*This is a new section. There is no corresponding section in the MUTCD.*

Support:

Traffic control treatments for urban school zones are shown in Table 7A-101 on the following page.

**Table 7A-101**  
**Urban School Zone Traffic Control**

Grade Level  (Lowest Grade Taught at School)	Students Required to Cross Road at Grade									Students Not Required to Cross Road At-Grade (Could be grade-separated or just no crossing)	
	Traffic Signal at Crossing		No Traffic Signal at Crossing								
			STOP Controlled Crossing	Crossing Not STOP-Controlled							
	Sufficient Gaps (2)			Insufficient Gaps (2)							
				Address by re-routing students, busing students, or one of the following:							
				Speed Limit ≤25	Speed Limit >25	Crossing Guard (If < 4 lanes)		Grade Separation	Ped. Signal (if warranted) (3)	Completely Fenced? (1)	
	Speed Limit ≤25	Speed Limit >25	Speed Limit ≤25			Speed Limit >25	Yes			No	
9-12	C	C	C – major streets only	C	C	n/a	n/a	See Students Not Required to Cross Road At-Grade	See Students Required to Cross Road At-Grade/ Traffic Signal at Crossing		
5-8	C	C,G?	C – major streets only, G?	C	C,G?	C,G	C,G				
K-4	C,G?	C,G?	C – major streets only, G?	C,G?	C,G?	C,G	C,G				

LEGEND	
n/a	Does not apply: Crossing guards should not be used for high school students.
	No School Signs
	Advance School Sign (S1-1) Only
	Advance (S1-1) and Crossing (S1-1 with W16-7p) School Signs: Overhead (S1-1) signs with flasher optional
	Advance (S1-1) and Crossing (S1-1 with W16-7p) School Signs + 20 mph When Flashing (S5-1) Sign and Flasher: Overhead (S1-1) with flasher signs optional (4)
C	Marked crosswalk: Install at nearest intersection, if within 400 feet. If a crosswalk exists within 400 feet, consider using it as the school crosswalk. Use school crosswalk signs at mid-block crosswalks if within a school zone.
G	Crossing Guard
G?	School districts should develop policies that consider crossing guards at these locations (for crossings of major streets).

The following notes pertain to Table 7A-101.

1. "Completely fenced" means fencing that restricts all access from the street side of the school to the street.
2. See Section 7A.03 of the MUTCD for gap sufficiency determination: When gaps are insufficient for crossing, student re-routing or busing should be the first options considered. Guards or pedestrian signals should be viewed as last resorts.
3. Traffic signals may be installed (but are not mandated) for pedestrians when the Minimum Pedestrian Volume or School Crossing warrants defined in Section 4C.06 of the MUTCD are met. Although these signals may be installed mid-block, every effort should be made to install them at intersections and run them as conventional signals.
4. The "Overhead Signs with Flashers" referenced in the legend are S1-1 school crossing signs with flashing lights hung over the road at or near the crosswalk. The flashing lights may be either inside of an internally illuminated sign or external. If the site has advance school flashers, the overhead flashers shall flash when the school flashers flash.

## CHAPTER 7B. SIGNS

### Section 7B.01     Size of School Signs

*Delete the first sentence of the Standard subsection and insert the following:*

**The size of signs and plaques to be used shall be as shown in the ASDS.**

*Delete Table 7B-1. Size of School Area Signs and Plaques.*

### Section 7B.07     Sign Color for School Warning Signs

*Delete the first sentence of the Standard subsection and insert the following:*

**The following signs shall be black on fluorescent yellow-green background:**

- A.     School Crossing Signs (S1-1)**
- B.     School Plaque (S4-3)**
- C.     School Speed Limit Signs (S5-1) (not including the part of the sign with white background)**
- D.     XXX FEET plaque (W16-2 series)**
- E.     AHEAD plaque (W16-9p)**
- F.     Diagonal Arrow plaque (W16-7p)**

*Delete the Option subsection in its entirety.*

### Section 7B.08     School Advance Warning Sign (S1-1)

*Delete the second paragraph of the Standard subsection and insert the following:*

**If used, the School Advance Warning sign shall be installed not less than 150 feet nor more than 700 feet in advance of the school grounds or school crossings; see Figure 7B-100, Advance School Signing in the Alaska Traffic Manual Supplement.**

### Section 7B.09     School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (S1-1 with Diagonal Arrow)

*Change W16-7 to W16-7P for sign designations on page 7B-5 of the MUTCD.*

*Delete Figure 7B-1. Typical Signing for School Area Traffic Control.*

*Delete the first paragraph under the Guidance subsection and insert the following:*

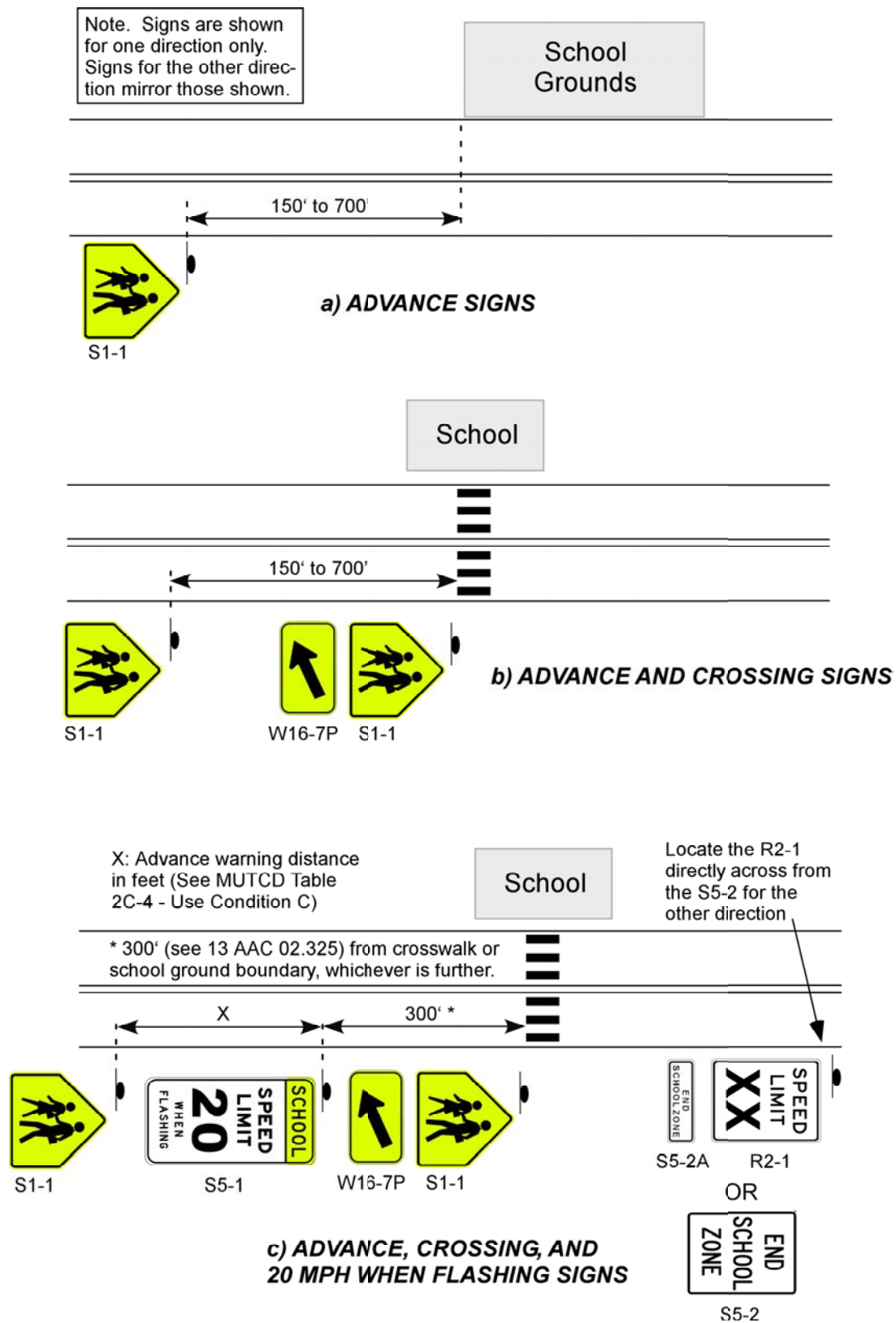
The School Crosswalk Warning assembly should be installed at marked crosswalk(s), including those at signalized locations, used by students going to and from school (see Figure 7B-9 Advance School Signing in the *Alaska Traffic Manual Supplement*).

#### **Section 7B.10     SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD Sign (S3-1)**

*Delete the first paragraph under the Guidance subsection and insert the following:*

The SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD (S3-1) sign should be installed in advance of bus stops where the top flashing lights of a school bus are not visible for a distance of 700 feet in advance, and where there is no opportunity to relocate the bus stop to provide 700 feet of visibility.

The SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD (S3-1) sign should be located in accordance with Table 2C-4, Section 2C.05 of the MUTCD, and “Stop” as the speed at the condition of concern.



**Figure 7B-100**  
**School Traffic Control**



## **Section 7B.11     School Speed Limit Assembly (S4-1, S4-2, S4-3, S5-1)**

*Delete the last paragraph under the Option subsection.*

*Add the following subsection to the end of the section:*

Guidance:

The SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT 20 WHEN FLASHING (S5-1) sign should consist of three signal heads with 8-inch diameter yellow lenses. They should be mounted vertically directly above the S5-1 sign. The bottom two beacons should be illuminated alternately and face the oncoming traffic. The top flashing beacon should face the opposite direction to indicate when the signals are in operation.

## **Section 7B.100     DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONE (S6-1)**

**Standard:**

**Alaska Statute 28.01.010(d) states, “The municipality shall post a sign indicating that the school is a drug-free school zone at each location in which it has installed a sign identifying the location of a school.” Accordingly, signs conveying this message shall be placed below, or near, all School Advance Warning (S1-1) signs.**

Guidance:

The posting of this sign is a municipal, not a state, responsibility.

Option:

The sign may be the S6-1 shown in the ASDS or another sign that conveys the required message. Sign colors may be either black legend on white background or black legend on fluorescent yellow-green background.

## CHAPTER 7C. MARKINGS

### Section 7C.03 Crosswalk Markings

*Delete the first paragraph of the Standard subsection and insert the following:*

**Crosswalk markings shall be placed at officially designated school crossings.**

**School crosswalks shall be installed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 3B.17 of this Alaska Traffic Manual Supplement.**

*Delete the Option subsection.*

*Delete the first sentence of the first Guidance subsection.*

*Delete the second Guidance subsection.*

## CHAPTER 7E. CROSSING SUPERVISION

### Section 7E.01     Types of Crossing Supervision

*Insert the following subsection at the end of the section:*

**Standard:**

School districts shall be responsible for deciding where to provide crossing guards and for compensating them.

